

Application Serial No: 10 090,987
In reply to Office Action of 23 Jun 2003

Attorney Docket No. 80085

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-16 stand rejected. Claims 2, 4 and 8 are amended. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-16 are cancelled without prejudice by this response.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the patent to Costa et al. (Reference E: United States Patent No. 6,464,148).

The Examiner objected that claims 2-5 and 8-11 were dependent upon a rejected base claim, but she indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These rejections and objections are respectfully traversed in view of these amendments and remarks.

Costa et al. appear to teach an invention related to artificial snowmaking and specifically to the discovery that by introducing an effective amount of organo-modified polysiloxane material to the water being supplied to the snow guns, the quality of the snow thus made is significantly enhanced.

Applicants teach a method for reducing the drag on an aqueous solution in a pipe or hose system such as a snow making system includes the introduction of drag reducing polymers into the aqueous solution prior to circulating the solution in a pipe

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or hose. In a preferred embodiment, the drag reducing polymers are a mixture of polyethylene oxide in a carrier solution. The introduction of the polyethylene oxide in a carrier solution reduces the overall frictional drag and therefore increases the snow making efficiency by reducing the power needed to pump the water. As a result, it is easier for greater quantities of snow to be made using existing equipment due to the increased flow rate as a result of the lower drag friction. In a preferred embodiment, the polyethylene oxide is approximately 20-30% by weight and is introduced into the water pipe so resulting concentrations are approximately 30-100 weight parts per million (WPPM). Applicants have amended claims 2 and 4 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. These amendments are in strict compliance with the Examiner's requirements for allowance. Applicant respectfully suggests that claims 2 and 4 are now in condition for allowance. Claim 3 is dependent on claim 2, and claim 5 is dependent on claim 4. Applicants respectfully suggest that these claims should be allowable by dependency.

Applicants have amended claim 8 to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 7. This amendment is in strict compliance with the Examiner's requirements for allowance. Applicant respectfully suggests that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 9-11 are dependent on claim 8 and should be allowable by dependency.

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All of the remaining claims in the application, claims 2-5 and 8-11 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

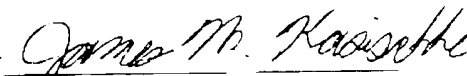
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Attorney for Applicants, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD B. PHILIPS ET AL

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By



JAMES M. KASISCHKE
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 36562